

Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories: Who we are and What we do

**N. Myron Gunsalus, Jr
Director**

Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories

**Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"**



Where do we fit in?

- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
 - Division of Environment
 - Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL)
(Office of Laboratory Services)

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



History

- The first analyses were performed in 1886 by Kansas Board of Health.
- Analyses of waters and wastewaters began in 1907 under Division of Sanitation
- 1976 lab was established in the present location...a 1956 Air Force Hospital

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



History (cont)

Leading Edges

- Flyswatter, Elimination of the common drinking cup, “Don’t Spit on the Sidewalk”
- Early development of blood lead testing from a dried blood spot.
- First Round of NELAC Accrediting States

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



What Is the Purpose of the State Lab?

- Agency Mission: Protect and Improve the health and environment of all Kansans.
- Primacy under Safe Drinking Water Act
 - Lab and Cert Program
- Prepare for and support disasters or acts of terrorism.
- Reference Lab

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



What is inside?

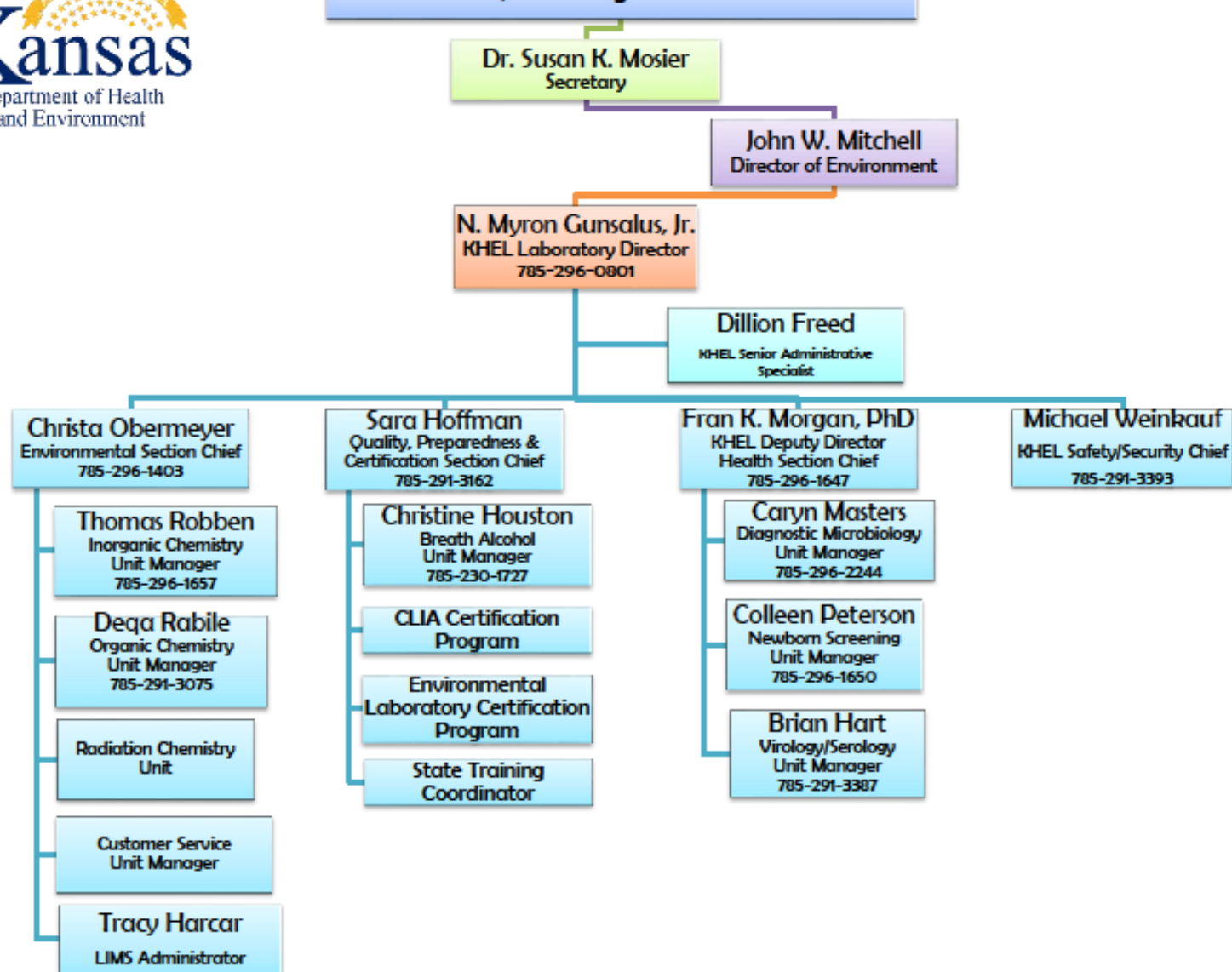
- Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL)
 - Health Laboratory Section
 - Environmental Laboratory Section
 - Quality, Preparedness and Certifications Section

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"





KDHE/KHEL Organization Chart



Health Section

Frances Morgan, PhD

Deputy Director and Health Section Chief

- Health Chemistry
 - Newborn Screening, Blood Lead Analysis
- Diagnostic Microbiology
 - Tuberculosis, Enteric and Reference Microbiology, Parasitology
- Virology/Serology
 - Viruses, STI's, Rubella, Hepatitis

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



Environmental Section

Christa Obermeyer

Environment Section Chief

- Organic Chemistry
 - Pesticides, Volatile Organics, Disinfection Byproducts
- Inorganic Chemistry
 - Metals, Nutrients, Demands, Physical Properties
- Environmental Microbiology
- Customer Service

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



Quality, Preparedness, Certification

Sara Hoffman

QPC Section Chief

- Quality Control for the laboratory
- Certifications for Outside Laboratories
 - All Clinical Laboratories, CLIA
 - All Environmental Laboratories, NELAC and Field
 - All Breath Alcohol Instruments and Operators

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



What's Next and Thoughts

- Lab Certification Regulation Update
- Next Emerging Disease.....
 - Thoughts on Zika Virus
- Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID)
- Public Health

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



Contact Information

Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories

6810 SE Dwight Street

Topeka, KS 66620

(Forbes Field, Building 740)

N. Myron Gunsalus, Jr. (785) 296-0801

ngunsalus@kdheks.gov

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"



Questions



**Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"**





www.kdheks.gov

Our vision is 'healthy Kansans living in safe and sustainable environments'.
The state belongs to all of us - "Kansas Don't Spoil It"

